

Amendments to the Drawings

Attached are replacement drawing sheets 1/5, 2/5, 3/5, 4/5 and 5/5 for amended Figure(s) 1-10.

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 USC 112 and 35 USC §102. By the foregoing amendment, new independent claim 13 is presented for consideration. Claims 1-13 remain in the application. In light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, withdrawal of the rejections and reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

The drawings have been objected to as not being in compliance with 37 CFR §1.84. Replacement drawing sheets 1-5 of 5 are enclosed and are believed to be in compliance. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The objection to the Information Disclosure Statement is noted. However, the single reference erroneously believed to have been provided by the International Bureau has been cited and made of record by the Examiner. Accordingly, no further action is believed necessary.

Claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed. In light of the foregoing amendments, the objections cited by the Examiner are believed to be addressed. Withdrawal of the rejection and reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Lyotard French Reference 2 624 470. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is well established that in order for a claim to be anticipated by a prior art reference, each and every element of the claim must be found in the prior art reference. Lyotard '740 discloses a pedal and shoe wedge assembly with quick uncoupling. The pedal and shoe wedge assembly consists of a shoe wedge whose outer face has, in its middle part, a transverse recess forming a supporting and centering cradle fitted at each end with male means for linking and retaining a

pedal, the cradle including a central part whose cross-section is complimentary to the recess for longitudinally positioning the wedge, a fixed lateral part on the crank side fitted with a female means which is complementary to the male linking and retaining means, and an opposite lateral part which can move elastically under the engagement or disengagement effect of the shoe, arranged so as to couple or uncouple the wedge by virtue of other female means which are complementary to the male linking and retaining means. The shoe insert of the Lyotard '470 reference can only be released from the pedal by the user by moving it parallel to the longitudinal axis of the pedal against the force of a spring until the engaging element comes free by tilting the shoe insert. In instances where the bicyclist falls, the movements necessary to detach the shoe from the pedal are deliberate, and if not executed properly, the bicyclist can be injured by being trapped onto the pedal of the bicycle.

In contrast, the claimed invention facilitates the detachment of the shoe insert from the pedal axis by a mere rotation of the shoe insert relative to said axis. More specifically, the reference according to Lyotard '470 discloses that the fixed lateral part 4c includes an annular groove 4e which is uniformly engaged by the male semi-annular means 1g1. The opposite lateral part 7, in combination with the central part 4d also forms an annular groove 7c for receiving a male semi-annular means 1g2. The shoe wedge is attached to the pedal by the male means 1g2 being inserted into the annular groove 7c, the part 7 being moved against a spring until the male means 1g1 can be aligned with the annular groove 4e. The spring then pushes the shoe edge toward the fixed part 4c so that the male means 1g1 enters the annular groove 4e. The wedge is thus retained by the pedal mechanism. Since the semi-annular male means 1g1 and 1g2 match the radius of, and therefore closely conform to, the annular grooves 4e and 7c, and the wedge further includes a transverse recess for engaging the central part 4d of the

pedal 4, the wedge is prevented from being rotated relative to the longitudinal axis of the pedal. Lyotard '470 therefore does not disclose that the shoe insert is released by carrying out a rotating movement, as required by independent claim 1, or that the engaging element is raised when the shoe insert is rotated to release the engaging element, as required by new independent claim 13. Lyotard '470 further does not disclose the detent element which has a tapered portion for aligning the detent element between the seat parts, as required by claim 8. The "wedge" referred to in the abstract of Lyotard '470 is the common term for a shoe insert, and is not related to the actual shape of the detent element that facilitates alignment with seat parts according to the claimed invention. Lyotard '470 further does not disclose the supporting wings, the insides of which come into contact with outer surface areas of the sleeves which extend cylindrically and rotationally symmetrically with respect to the pedal axis, as required by claim 11.

Accordingly, the claims are not anticipated by the disclosure of Lyotard '470. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-12 and reconsideration of the claims are respectfully requested.

In light of the foregoing, the claims remaining in the application are considered to be in condition for allowance, and early notice of allowability is courteously solicited. If necessary to further prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's representatives listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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